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Still Not Convinced

Prior to last week's avalanche of investigation, analysis and airing of the Warren Report, six out of 10 Americans were said to disagree with some or all of the Report's conclusions.

It is our guess that six out of 10 Americans have not changed their mind one iota.

They will continue to draw charts, quote ballistics "experts" and otherwise seek to "prove" that Lee Harvey Oswald could not have acted alone.

Undoubtedly, the case leaves many loose ends which the American public would like to see either snipped off and discarded or tied up neatly into one convincing bundle.

The Warren Commission itself admits it should probably have required a study of the assassinated president's X-ray pictures, which out of regard for the Kennedy familys strongly believe a study of the pictures would have made no essential difference in their findings.

Oswald's mother is certain her son went to Russia at the behest of some government agency, probably CIA. Otherwise, how could he have been discharged three months early from the Marines and acquired a legitimate passport? Yet, even if she is right, she does not advance a shred of evidence that Oswald was part of a conspiracy.

And on and on.

Historian Henry Steele Commager says Americans believe in a conspiracy simply because that is what they want to believe. Even Mrs. Kennedy is quoted as hoping her husband's death would prove to be the result of a conspiracy since it would give added dignity to a martyrdom in the cause of civil rights.

However, says Dr. Commager, the plain truth is the assassination of Kennedy, like that of Lincoln, Garfield and McKinley, and the attempted assassination of Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt, was the act of a single fanatic acting alone.

Frankly, we find the idea of the lone fanatic much more tolerable than the thought of a ring of conspirators deliberately plotting against the life of a President.

A single mad act by an individual is frightening and deplorable, but not beyond comprehension.

A coldly conceived plot carried out in malice by a group in full knowledge of the evil they are committing is beyond the grasp of the sane mind.

Yet the question marks raised by the murder seem to loom large as ever to most Americans, despite pages of careful interpretation by Associated Press and hours of analysis by CBS.

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